

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus for controlling use of [[a]] content under a predetermined condition, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring first identification information ~~of~~ for a first client,
the first client being an another apparatus or user requesting use of [[a]] the content;

registration means for registering the first identification information acquired from
the first client, and for changing the registered first identification information ~~other-~~
~~apparatus or the user;~~ and

change limitation means for preventing the registration means from further
changing the first identification information in accordance with a limitation;

limitation modifying means for modifying the limitation; and

usage control means for, in response to the request for use of the content issued
by the first client ~~other apparatus or the user,~~ determining whether the use of the
content is allowed on the basis of whether the first identification information ~~of the other-~~
~~apparatus or the user~~ is already currently registered.

2. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the registration means performs registration in response to a request issued by
the first client ~~another apparatus or the user.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the registration means performs new registration only when ~~the~~ a current

number of registrations is smaller than a predetermined maximum allowable number of registrations.

4. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the registration means stores, together with the first identification information of ~~another apparatus or user~~, an invalidation flag for controlling provision of a service to a the first client ~~whose identification information is already registered~~; and

the usage control means limits the use of the content by the first client ~~other apparatus or the user~~, if the invalidation flag associated with the ~~other apparatus or the user~~ first client is set.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the limitation is a maximum ~~change limitation means limits, to a predetermined value~~, the number of times ~~already registered~~ identification information is can be replaced with identification information of another apparatus or user.

7. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the limitation is a minimum amount of time that must expire between replacing ~~change limitation means limits the frequency at which already registered identification information is replaced with identification information of another apparatus or user~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein when the already registered first identification information for the first client is replaced with second identification information for a second client ~~of another~~

~~apparatus or user~~, the change limitation means requests the second client ~~other-~~
~~apparatus or the user~~ to perform a particular operation.

9. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim
[[5]] 1, wherein when ~~already the~~ registered first identification information is replaced
with second identification information for a second client, the change limitation means
requests submission of change permission information from the second client ~~another-~~
~~apparatus or a manager~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim
[[5]] 6, wherein the change limitation means charges fees for changing the maximum
number of times identification information can be replaced ~~depending on the maximum-~~
~~allowable number of times already registered identification information is changed~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A content usage control apparatus according to claim
[[5]] 1, wherein when the limitation is modified ~~on registration is changed~~, the change
limitation means requests submission of change permission information from a different
~~another~~ apparatus or a ~~particular~~ manager.

12. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method for controlling use of
[[a]] content under a predetermined condition, comprising ~~the~~ steps of:

acquiring first identification information ~~of~~ for a first client, the first client being an
~~another~~ apparatus or user requesting use of [[a]] the content;

registering the first identification information acquired from the first client ~~other-~~
~~apparatus or the user~~; and

changing the registered first identification information;

preventing further changes to the registered first identification information in

accordance with a limitation;

modifying the limitation; and

in response to the request for use of the content issued by the first client ~~other apparatus or the user~~, determining whether the use of the content is allowed on the basis of whether the first identification information ~~of the other apparatus or the user~~ is already currently registered.

13. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim 12, wherein ~~in the registration step~~, registration is performed in response to a request issued by the first client ~~another apparatus or user~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim 12, wherein ~~in the registration step~~, new registration is performed only when ~~the~~ a current number of registrations is smaller than a predetermined maximum allowable number of registrations.

15. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim 12, wherein ~~in the registration step~~, an invalidation flag for controlling provision of a service to a the first client ~~whose identification information is already registered~~ is stored together with the first identification information ~~of another apparatus or user~~; and

~~in the usage limiting step~~, the use of the content by the first client ~~other apparatus or the user~~ is limited, if the invalidation flag associated with the first client ~~other apparatus or the user~~ is set.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim
[[16]] 12, wherein ~~in the step of limiting changing of registered information~~, the limitation

is a maximum number of times ~~already registered~~ identification information is can be replaced ~~with identification information of another apparatus or user is limited to a~~ predetermined value.

18. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim [[16]] 12, wherein ~~in the step of limiting changing of registered information~~, the limitation is a minimum amount of time that must expire between replacing frequency at which ~~already registered~~ identification information ~~with identification information of another apparatus or user is limited~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim [[16]] 12, wherein ~~the step of limiting changing of registered information includes the~~ ~~step of~~, when the already registered first identification information for the first client is replaced with second identification information for a second client, the second client is requested ~~of another apparatus or user, requesting the other apparatus or the user to~~ perform a particular operation.

20. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim [[16]] 12, wherein ~~the step of limiting changing of registered information includes the~~ ~~step of~~, when the already registered first identification information is replaced with second identification information for a second client, ~~requesting~~ submission of change permission information is requested from the second client ~~another apparatus or a~~ manager.

21. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim [[16]] 17, wherein ~~the step of limiting changing of registered information includes the~~ ~~step of~~ further comprising charging fees for changing the maximum number of times

identification information can be replaced depending on the maximum allowable number of times already registered identification information is changed.

22. (Currently Amended) A content usage control method according to claim 16, wherein ~~the step of limiting changing of registered information includes the step of,~~ when the limitation is modified ~~on registration is changed,~~ requesting submission of change permission information is requested from ~~another~~ a different apparatus or a particular manager.

23. (Currently Amended) A medium containing processor readable instructions ~~computer program described in a computer-readable format,~~ for causing a ~~computer-system~~ an information processor to execute a process of controlling use of [[a]] content under a predetermined condition, the process comprising the steps of:

acquiring first identification information ~~of~~ for a first client, the first client being an ~~another~~ apparatus or user requesting use of [[a]] the content;

registering the first identification information acquired from the first client ~~other-~~ ~~apparatus or the user;~~ and

changing the registered first identification information;

preventing further changes to the registered first identification information in accordance with a limitation;

modifying the limitation; and

in response to the request for use of the content issued by the first client ~~other-~~ ~~apparatus or the user,~~ determining whether the use of the content is allowed on the basis of whether the first identification information ~~of the other apparatus or the user is~~ already currently registered.